

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NASA-04 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CPR-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSR-01 PA-03

PRS-01 DODE-00 /086 W

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R 180833Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6766

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 3230

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US, TSPA

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF MOON ROCK

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: US AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, MALCOLM TOON, TODAY (JULY 17) PRESENTED APOLLO 17 LUNAR SAMPLE TO PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA. PRESENTATION WAS MADE ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES TO VP OF STATE PRESIDENCY, RATO DUGONJIC, WHO ACCEPTED GIFT ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT TITO AND PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA. END SUMMARY.

2. GIFT CONSISTED OF SMALL MOON ROCK AND PLAQUE MOUNTED WITH FLAG OF YUGOSLAVIA CARRIED TO MOON ON APOLLO 17 FLIGHT IN DECMEBER 1972. PLAQUE INSCRIPTION SAYS "LUNAR SAMPLE IS GIFT FROM PEOPLE OF UNITED STATES TO PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA."

3. ACCOMPANYING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT TITO NOTED THAT EXPLORATION OF MOON WAS "TRULY AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT" AND LOOKED FORWARD TO "SHARING WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED WITH ALL MANKIND." PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THAT "IF PEOPLE OF MANY NATIONS CAN ACT TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE DREAMS OF HUMANITY IN SPACE, THEN SURELY WE CAN ACT TOGETHER TO ACCOMPLISH HUMANITY'S DREAM OF PEACE HERE ON EARTH."

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4. IN REVIEWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF APOLLO PROGRAM FOR VICE

PRESIDENT DUGONJIC, AMBASSADOR TOON COMMENTED THAT IF BARRIERS OF SPACE CAN BE OVERCOME AND ITS MYSTERIES SOLVED, THEN PERHAPS THERE IS HOPE THAT BARRIERS BETWEEN NATIONS ON EARTH CAN ALSO BE SURMOUNTED AND PROBLEMS OF MANKIND BE RESOLVED. HE SAID HE HOPED "SPIRIT OF APOLLO" WILL CONTRIBUTE TO RESOLUTION OF THOSE PROBLEMS.

5. VP DUGONJIC RESPONDED BY THANKING AMBASSADOR FOR THIS "MAGNIFICENT GIFT." AWARE OF CRITICISM LEVELED AGAINST AMERICAN SPACE PROGRAM, VP DUGONJIC SAID HE WAS "A CRITIC OF THE CRITICS." HE CALLED APOLLO PROGRAM "GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT FOR AMERICA." "NOTHING" HE ADDED, "CONTRIBUTED MORE TO BRINGING UNITED STATES CLOSER TO HUMANITY THAN SPACE PROGRAM". VP RECALLED THAT DURING FIRST MOON LANDING HE WAS AMONG PEOPLE IN WORLD WHO "FELT BETTER AND GREATER AS HUMAN BEINGS" AS RESULT OF THAT EXPERIENCE. IT WAS TIME, HE SAID, WHEN ALL BOUNDARIES, DIFFERENCES AND IDEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIONS ON EARTH WERE SET ASIDE. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IMPACT OF SPACE PROGRAM WILL BE ENDURING AND WILL DEEPEN IN TIME. MR. DUGONJIC ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "PENETRATION OF SPACE" WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO REMOVING "EARTHLY BARRIERS." IN EXPRESSING HAPPINESS WITH RECEIVING GIFT, VP DUGONJIC SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT HE ALSO EXPRESSED FEELINGS OF PRESIDENT TITO.

6. TV, MEDIA COVERED PRESENTATION.
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